

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2381

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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MADRID FOR UNDER SECRETARY BENSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SP, PO, MO, OVIP (BENSON, LUCY WILSON)

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE ON UNDER SECRETARY BENSON'S VISIT
TO MOROCCO

1. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERN-
ING UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOROCCO. UNLESS OBJECTION
PERCEIVED, EMBASSY'S PRESS OFFICER WILL DRAW ON THIS GUIDANCE
ON IF-ASKED BASIS.

2. Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF UNDER SECRETARY BENSON'S VISIT TO
MOROCCO?

A. THE VISIT IS PART OF A TRIP WHICH HAS INCLUDED PORTUGAL AND
SPAIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF FAMILIARIZING MRS. BENSON WITH SECURITY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN THESE COUNTRIES. AS SHE HAS ONLY RECENTLY
ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS, SHE IS IN YOUR COUNTRY (AS WELL AS PORTUGAL AND SPAIN)
TO PROFIT FROM EXPOSURE TO OPERATING FIELD PROGRAMS.

Q. WILL MRS. BENSON BE MEETING WITH MOROCCAN MILITARY OFFICIALS?

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A. SHE WILL MEET WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
INCLUDING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION.

Q. IS THE UNDER SECRETARY'S VISIT PART OF A MAJOR ARMS BUILDUP
BY MOROCCO? WILL SHE DISCUSS ARMS TRANSFERS?

A. AS I TOLD YOU, IT IS A FAMILIARIZATION VISIT AND IS NOT CONNECTED WITH ANY NEW PROGRAMS.

Q. WILL THE U.S. BE RESUPPLYING MOROCCO WITH ARMS IN ORDER TO REPLENISH ITS LOSSES SUFFERED IN THE SHABA WAR (IN ZAIRE)?

A. AS THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID APRIL 11, NO SUCH EQUIPMENT WAS USED BY MOROCCAN TROOPS IN ZAIRE. AS PERHAPS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS BOTH BY LAW AND BILATERAL U.S. MOROCCAN AGREEMENT AGAINST THE USE OF U.S. SUPPLIED WEAPONS OUTSIDE MOROCCO'S BORDERS WITHOUT U.S. PERMISSION. MOROCCO HAS NOT REQUESTED SUCH PERMISSION.

Q. WILL MRS. BENSON BE INSPECTING AMERICAN EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING BY THE MOROCCAN MILITARY IN ITS USE WHILE SHE IS HERE?

A. ONE OF THE PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP IN MOROCCO IS TO ASSIST THE MOROCCAN MILITARY IN THE TRAINING AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF U.S. WEAPONS RECEIVED. NATURALLY, AS PART OF THE UNDER SECRETARY'S FAMILIARIZATION, SHE SHALL WISH TO SEE FOR HERSELF HOW SUCH TRAINING AND SUPPORT ARE ACCOMPLISHED.

Q. WILL MRS. BENSON BE VISITING MOROCCAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THAT REGARD?

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A. UNDER SECRETARY BENSON HAS BEEN KINDLY INVITED BY THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ADMINISTRATION TO SEE THE TRAINING UNDERTAKEN AT MEKNES AIR FORCE BASE.
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